

Borough of Weston-super-Mare



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1943

including the
Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and
the Meteorological Report.



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Borough of Weston - super - Mare

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1942-3.

Chairman : Councillor W. B. CRAIG.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor MRS. D. A. WHEELER.

Alderman B. T. BUTTER	Councillor A. J. HEYBYRNE
Alderman P. E. CULLING	Councillor C. W. N. MARTIN
Alderman J. J. LEAVER	Councillor W. C. SLEEP
Councillor Mrs. M. BROWN	Councillor J. C. WALKER
Councillor E. M. SMITH	Councillor G. WOOD

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor R. HOSKEN, J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1942-43.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. M. BROWN.

All Members of the Public Health Committee, with the following co-opted ladies :—

LADY DAVIES	MRS. M. E. LUCAS
MRS. J. L. EDMUNDS	MRS. A. MACFARLANE
MRS. A. J. HEYBYRNE	Mrs. PAGE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, SUPERINTENDENT OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND BOROUGH MATERNITY HOME, AND BOROUGH METEOROLOGIST.

CYRIL G. EASTWOOD, M.D., CH.B., B.SC., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER :

M. GROLMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

H. W. BLADON, F.S.I.A., cert.R.S.I.

ABATTOIR SUPERINTENDENT AND SANITARY INSPECTOR :

I. A. STEPHENSON, cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B., MEAT & FOODS
cert.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

C. E. URCH, cert.R.S.I., MEAT & FOODS cert.R.S.I.

W. W. WHITE, cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. exam., MEAT & FOODS
cert.R.S.I., cert. INST. OF PUBLIC CLEANSING (salvage), Cert.
LONDON CITY & GUILDS (Plumbing), cert. RUTHERFORD
COLLEGE (Building Construction).

CHIEF HEALTH VISITOR :

MISS D. DALLAWAY, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.I. Cert.R.S.I.
(until May 29th, 1943).

MISS E. SWIFT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert. (from July 1st, 1943).

HEALTH VISITORS :

MRS. A. M. BISHOP, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.
MISS G. M. HARVEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.
MISS A. H. MITCHELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.
(until April 3rd, 1943).
MISS M. HEAFEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.
MISS B. M. WEBBER, S.C.M., L.C.A.T.M.

MATRONS :

Isolation Hospital : MISS A. MANEY, S.R.N., S.C.M.
(until July 18th, 1943).
MISS R. WHITTAKER, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M.
(from July 19th, 1943).
Borough Maternity Home : MRS. I. D. GOODWIN, S.R.N., S.C.M.
(until May 17th, 1943).
MISS I. M. GOVIER, S.R.N., S.C.M. (from May 18th, 1943).
Glenelg Sick Bay and Emergency Isolation Hospital :
MRS. M. C. McCLELLAND, S.R.N.
Tralee Sick Bay : MISS E. W. SYMONDS, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Neva Road Nursery : MRS. M. M. MILLER, S.R.N.
Beaconsfield Road Nursery : MISS L. SIMS, cert.N.S.D.N.
(until June 30th, 1943).
MISS A. M. TERRY, cert.N.S.D.N. (from July 1st, 1943).

CLEANSING STATION SISTER :

MRS. E. N. SALISBURY, S.R.N., S.C.M.

SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSERIES : MISS L. GROVE.

WARDENS :

Neva Road Nursery : MISS H. TASMAN.
Beaconsfield Road Nursery : MRS. K. DUCKER.
Good Shepherd Nursery : MRS. P. SHACKLEFORD.
Milton Hill Nursery : MISS E. M. WEEKS.
Corton Nursery : MRS. BAKER.

CHIEF CLERK : MISS D. B. POWELL.

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MISS E. NICHOLLS.

NURSING STAFF : 46.

CLERICAL, DOMESTIC AND MISCELLANEOUS : 40.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
THE TOWN HALL,
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my third Annual Report : the fifty-first in the series of Medical Officer's Reports of the town.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, the Report once more is presented in a very brief form, as it has not been practicable to enter into all the aspects of Departmental work in detail.

With the continuation of the war, pressure of work and difficulty in maintaining an adequate staff have naturally increased, but every endeavour has been made to keep the Public Health Services in the town at a high level of efficiency.

At the end of the year under review several important additions to the Departmental services were under consideration : the provision of a new Maternity Home, improvements in the Maternity and Child Welfare Service and an extension of meals provided in Nurseries. It is hoped that these will come into force during 1944 and will find a place in the Annual Report for that year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CYRIL G. EASTWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistical Summary, 1943.

AREA (including foreshore) 7,006 Acres

POPULATION :

1931 census 31,706

Registrar-General's estimate for 1943 ... 38,100

LIVE BIRTHS : Male. Female. Total.

Legitimate 269 279 548

Illegitimate 25 21 46

294 300 594

BIRTH RATE : 15.6.

STILL BIRTHS :				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	5	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	3	3
				—	—	—
				5	8	13
						==

STILL BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 total births) : 21·1.

DEATHS :	Male.	Female.	Total.
	241	315	556

DEATH RATE : 14·6.

PUERPERAL DEATHS :

From puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—
From other puerperal causes	...	...	...	2
				—
Total	...	...	...	2
				==

INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of infants under one year of age) :

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	48·8
Rate for all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	43·8
Rate for all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	108·7

OTHER DEATHS :

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	99
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2

I. Vital Statistics.

REGISTERED BIRTHS.—After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 594 live births for 1943 ; 294 were males and 300 females. Of these, 46 were illegitimate (25 males and 21 females). The registered number of still births was 13 (5 males and 8 females) of which number 3 females were illegitimate.

The birth rate for 1943 was 15·6 per 1,000 of the population, which is higher than that for last year (14·4) but below that for the country as a whole (16·5).

DEATHS.—574 deaths were registered as having occurred in the Borough during the year. After deducting the deaths of 104 non-residents and adding the deaths of 86 normal residents which took place outside the Borough, the net total comes to 556 Weston deaths. Of these, 241 were males and 315 females.

The number of deaths in the four quarters of the year were :—First quarter 143, second quarter 134, third quarter 95 and fourth quarter 184.

The following tables show the causes of death and the sex and age distribution of deaths :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.					1943.	
					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	Total	556	241	315
1	Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	...			—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	1	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...			4	8
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...		3	1
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	3	2
9	Influenza	...	...	...	4	8
10	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
11	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
12	Acute infantile encephalitis	...	...		—	—
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M.), uterus (F.)	...	...	...	2	6
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...			11	6
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	11
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	24	39
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	5
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...		23	29
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	60	88
20	Other diseases of the circulatory system...				4	8
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	13	13
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	8	8
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	6	4
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...			1	3
25	Diarrhœa under 2 years	...	...		—	2
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	4	11
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	17	14
29	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...			—	—
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	2
31	Premature births	...	...	...	2	2
32	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases	...	...	...	7	8
33	Suicide	...	...	...	—	2
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	2	1
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	5	5
36	All other causes	...	...	...	34	28
Special causes (included in No. 36 above)—						
	Small-pox	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						
	Total	...	...	...	15	14
	Legitimate	...			12	12
	Illegitimate	...			3	2

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1943.

Ages at Death in Years.			Males	Females.	Total.
Under 1	...	...	15	14	29
1 to 9	...	...	6	2	8
10 to 24	...	...	3	7	10
25 to 44	...	...	16	19	35
45 to 64	...	...	55	58	113
65 to 69	...	...	32	29	61
			—127	—129	—256
70 to 74	...	...	30	45	75
75 to 79	...	...	32	50	82
80 to 84	...	...	33	43	76
85 to 89	...	...	11	28	39
90 to 94	...	...	7	17	24
95 to 99	...	...	1	3	4
			—114	—186	—300
			<u>241</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>556</u>

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, registered during the year, was 29 (15 male and 14 female). Of these, 3 male and 2 female were illegitimate. These 29 deaths represent an infant mortality rate of 48·8.

INQUESTS.—Inquests held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year numbered 32, of which 19 were upon residents of Weston-super-Mare and 13 upon non-residents. The causes of death in respect of residents are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.			Males.	Females.	Total.
Natural Causes	...	...	5	5	10
Strangulation	...	...	—	—	—
Accidents : Burns	...	...	—	1	1
Falls	...	...	1	—	1
Falls from height			—	—	—
By moving machinery			1	—	1
Shot from rifle	...		1	—	1
Poisoning : Coal gas	...	...	—	1	1
Motor Car fumes			—	—	—
During Operations	...	...	—	—	—
In Motor Vehicles	...	...	—	—	—
By Motor Vehicles	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide : Drowning		...	—	—	—
Hanging	...	...	—	—	—
Poisoning : Coal gas			—	1	1
Motor Car fumes			—	—	—
Jumping from height			—	—	—
Found Drowned	...	...	1	—	1
			<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>19</u>

II. General Health Services, etc.

Most of the additions to the General Health Services made during 1943 have come within the field of Maternity and Child Welfare and are referred to in Part V of this report.

PUBLICITY AND HEALTH EDUCATION.—General publicity on health subjects by means of posters and the distribution of leaflets has been carried on throughout the year, emphasis being laid upon sex education and the prevention of venereal disease. In the late summer and early autumn particular attention was given to immunisation against diphtheria in connection with the Government's general campaign.

PERSONAL INFESTATION.—Circular 2831 of the Ministry of Health, issued in July, 1943, directed the attention of Local Authorities to the question of infestation by head lice, particularly in the case of children under the age of five years, and asked that special care should be paid to the education of mothers in dealing with this complaint. Such infestation is, fortunately, not a serious problem in Weston-super-Mare but, through Health Visitors and the War-time Nurseries, we gave information and instruction where it appeared to be necessary and distributed a very large number of leaflets on the subject throughout the town. We also began using the lethane hair-oil recommended in this circular : having introduced it shortly before the circular appeared.

COMMON COLD EXPERIMENT.—The experiment in the control of the common cold referred to in the Annual Report for 1942 unfortunately failed to yield results, as most of the volunteers neglected to keep a proper record, and apparently lost interest in the experiment very easily.

SPECIAL WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES.—A great deal of time and attention was necessarily diverted from normal public health work to Civil Defence, the Government Evacuation Scheme, and other aspects of War work which continued, and in some cases expanded, during the year.

The following statistics show the work carried out at the various institutions and centres attached to the Department, excluding those which are noted under other headings subsequently :—

Isolation Hospital : Admissions during 1943	...	...	147
Glenelg Sick Bay : Admissions during 1943	...	...	121
Glenelg Auxiliary Isolation Section : Admissions during 1943	...	...	109
Tralee Sick Bay : Admissions during 1943	...	...	77
Cleansing Station : Patients treated during 1943	...	...	1,039
Minor Ailments' Clinic : Attendances during 1943	...	...	1,007

All the other general health services were maintained throughout the year.

III. Infectious Disease.

The following table sets out particulars of infectious disease occurring in the Borough during the year :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	101	96	—
Diphtheria	14	15	—
Meningitis	2	2	—
Pneumonia	30	7	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	1	1
Erysipelas	11	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Dysentery (Sonne)	31	—	—
Encaphelitis Lethargica	1	—	—
Measles	373	—	—
Whooping Cough	150	—	1
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	32	—	8
Non-Pulmonary	6	—	3

The incidence of measles was unusually high during the year, particularly during the summer months May to August. Whooping cough was also unusually prevalent during the greater part of the year.

In October there was a small outbreak of dysentery of the Sonne type but it did not reach serious proportions.

IV. Diphtheria Immunisation.

The usual publicity by means of leaflets distributed in the town was continued during the year. In the autumn, the publicity campaign was intensified by the exhibition of posters throughout the town and in public conveyances, the wide distribution of special leaflets and the exhibition of lantern slides at local cinemas. This special drive was run in conjunction with the Government's publicity efforts, which were taking place at the same time.

In August we began the practice of sending an attractive birthday card on each child's first birthday, pointing out that the parents could give a valuable birthday gift in the form of immunisation against diphtheria.

The following table shows the progress of immunisation against diphtheria :—

	Immunisation completed during 1943.	
	Under 5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.
	531	444
Number of children		
Percentage of children in each of the two age groups	26·18%	10·84%

V. Maternity and Child Welfare.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION.—Accommodation is provided for normal confinements at Allandale Maternity Home, while abnormal cases are admitted to the Maternity Ward of the General Hospital.

The Council has an arrangement whereby an Obstetric Consultant can be called in by any doctor in respect of a case of abnormal pregnancy or labour.

The following table shows the admissions to maternity beds at Allandale and the General Hospital :—

	Number of Beds.	Number of Patients admitted during 1943.
Allandale... ..	13	249
General Hospital Maternity Ward	5 (available to the Borough Council)	41

HEALTH VISITING.—The following table shows the work of the Health Visitors during the year :—

	Infants under 1 year.			Children 1—5 yrs.	Ante-natal.			C.I.P.
	First Visits.	Other Visits.	Total.		First Visits.	Other Visits.	Total.	
Residents ...	602	2,976	3,578	6,652	373	620	993	322
Evacuees ...	18	115	133	421	21	41	62	—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION.—The Council continued making an annual grant to the Maternity and Child Welfare Association, which provides Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics as follows :—

Ante-Natal Clinics held at The Church Institute, The Boulevard : Residents, Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Evacuees, Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics held at The Church Institute, The Boulevard : Residents, Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. and Friday at 11.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon. Evacuees, Thursday at 11.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

At the Congregational Schoolroom, Moorland Road, Thursday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

The following table summarises the work done during the year :—

BOULEVARD CENTRE.

INFANT WELFARE.

Total number of children who first attended during 1943 :

(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	329
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	106
Total number of children under 5	...	...	...	...	...	765
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	4,450
Children who were under 1 year on Dec. 31st, 1943	...	...	...	...	...	264

ANTE-NATAL.

Weston mothers (excluding 19 out of district)	...	...	...	...	...	335
Evacuee mothers	...	...	...	...	...	37
Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	1,275
POST-NATAL	...	...	...	...	...	9

MOORLAND ROAD CLINIC.

Children who first attended during 1943 :

(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	104
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total number under 5	...	...	...	...	...	251
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	1,894
Children who were under 1 year on Dec. 31st, 1943	...	...	...	...	...	88

SPECIAL CLINICS AND WELFARE PROVISIONS.

Attendance of children under 5 at Dental Clinic	...	...	...	...	19
Mothers who attended Dental Clinic	...	...	...	...	93
Number of patients provided with dentures	...	...	...	...	21

DENTAL TREATMENT.	Mothers.		Children.	
	Weston.	Evacuees.	Weston.	Evacuees.
Extractions	295	1	43	2
Fillings	77	—	17	—
Dentures : Upper ...	16	2	—	—
Lower ...	12	—	—	—
Scalings	3	—	—	—
Anæsthetics : Ethyl Chlor.	14	1	—	—
Anæsthetics : N ₂ OxO ₂ ...	78	1	—	—

Number of children referred for orthopædic X-Ray ...	5
Number of children under 5 referred to Orthopædic Clinic	93
Number of patients provided with orthopædic appliances	5
Number of patients admitted to Bath Orthopædic Hospital	5
Number of children referred to Massage Clinic	8
Number of children referred to Artificial Sunlight Clinic ...	26
Cases where special nourishment was supplied	—

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, ETC.—Two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred during the year.

During the year seven cases of children under five years of age were referred to the County Oculist on account of defective vision or squint.

HOME HELP SCHEME.—In February the Council approved a Home Help scheme for women at the time of their confinement or, in certain exceptional cases, at a time of incapacity from illness. The arrangement envisaged was that the applicant would herself make arrangements with some person to act as a home help and the Council would be responsible for payment, or the Council would maintain a register of suitable women who could be put into touch with applicants. Applicants were to be called upon to pay up to a fixed maximum in accordance with their income.

Unfortunately the scheme has been greatly handicapped by a shortage of suitable women who are prepared to act as Home Helps. This appears to be the case in all parts of the country, as the majority of such women as would formerly be available in peace-time are now engaged on war work or are fully occupied in looking after evacuees or the children of relatives on war service.

THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) ACT, 1939.—This Act came into force on June 1st, 1943 and is intended to give better control of arrangements made for the adoption of children. All persons who were thought likely to be connected with proceedings relating to adoption were circularised throughout the town, and notices were put in the newspapers

explaining the provisions of the Act. Most cases of adoption in the Borough are carried out through the agency of the National Adoption Society, who maintain close contact with the Department of Public Health.

VI. War-time Nurseries.

The work of the War-time Nurseries continued and developed during the year. The Corton Part-time Nursery was discontinued in August as the attendance had always been small and the premises were far from suitable.

Very successful parties were held at all the nurseries at Christmastime, and were attended by the Mayor and members of the Council.

The London County Council's Evacuated Children's Nursery at Clifton Road was taken over in March by the Waifs and Strays Society on behalf of the Ministry of Health, general supervision continuing to be exercised from this Department.

The following table shows the work of the nurseries :—

Nursery.	Average Daily Attendance.
Neva Road (full time)	26
Beaconsfield Road (full time)	27
The Good Shepherd Hall (part time)	16
Milton Hill (part time)	18
The Corton (part time)	9

VII. Sanitary Work.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

The war has brought about a disturbance of normal working conditions with many incidental matters continually arising which entail a considerable amount of attention and working time and interference with the usual routine work and normal procedure.

COURT AND STATUTORY PROCEEDINGS.

An Order in Court was obtained under the Weston-super-Mare Urban District Council Act of 1934 with regard to a dwelling-house in an insanitary condition. The insanitary conditions were remedied.

Statutory notices served	1
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HOUSING.

One hundred and one houses were repaired under informal notices.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

The number of houses found to be infested by vermin was :—

Treatments—Primary	...	...	...	19
„ Secondary	...	...	...	13
„ Preventive	...	...	...	2
„ to rooms	...	...	...	59

The methods of treatment used for disinfestation are :—
(1) Ris ; (2) Killgercide ; (3) Zaldecide ; (4) the use of fumigants in conjunction with the above preparations.

OVERCROWDING.

A certain amount of latitude has been allowed in connection with overcrowding, but attention has been given to urgent cases. War circumstances have made it difficult to keep in touch with constantly changing conditions.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Only one complaint of a smoke nuisance was received. This was appropriately dealt with.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Immediate treatment has been given to affected premises by baiting and gassing. Seventy-seven infestations were dealt with.

The infestation of your refuse tips has been kept at a reasonably low level.

FACTORIES, SHOPS, ETC.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.				No. of Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.
Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	276	70
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	68	10
TOTAL				344	80

	Defects Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	70	70	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—
Drainage of floors	1	1	—
Sanitary conveniences—			
Insufficient	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Sanitary conveniences provided	...	...	...	...	1
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	1

HOLIDAY CAMPING GROUNDS.

Number of camps licensed during the year, 4.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 9 fish friers in the town. Of these, 4 are licensed annually. A gut scrapers' business is carried on at the Public Abattoirs and there is a fellmongers' business established at Rickett's Lane, Worle.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

by Sanitary Inspector's Staff (not including Health Visitors).

Total number of inspections and visits	...	...	...	7,494
Nuisances or complaints	...	...	...	1,002
Work ordered	...	...	...	841
Work in progress	...	...	...	372
Drainage tests visits :—				
Smoke tests at existing buildings	...	...	...	8
Water tests at existing buildings	...	...	...	37
Inspection of concrete in connection with drains	...	...	...	43

Dwelling houses :—

Number inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	266
Number inspections made for the purpose	470
Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925	—
Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
Number of housing inspections <i>re</i> (miscellaneous matters)	202
Housing inspections <i>re</i> infectious diseases	144
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> vermin	39
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> vermin	45
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding	28
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding	31
Number of re-inspections after service of notices P.H.A., 1936	84
Interviews with agents, owners, contractors, etc.	1,175
Factory inspection—Power	276
Non-power	88
Bakehouses	78
Outworkers	3
Shops Act inspections	5
Cowsheds and farm inspections	370
Dairies and milkshops inspections	230
Butchers' shops and Abattoir inspections	1,256
Food shops and food premises inspections	591
Offensive trades inspections	48
Tents, vans and sheds inspections	57
Inspections <i>re</i> manure pits	7
Inspection of premises where animals are kept	113
Inspection of public and private refuse tips	35
Refuse bin inspections	22
Smoke abatement inspections	5
Public buildings inspections (including licensed amusement premises)	38
Rat infestation inspections	461
Petrol spirit licensing inspections	58
Miscellaneous visits	2,005

WORK DONE.

Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts)	101
Houses repaired informally under Housing Acts	1
Houses repaired formally under Housing Acts	—
Houses cleansed and decorated	1
Rooms repaired	65
Roofs repaired or stripped and retiled or reslated	29
Floors relaid or repaired	47
Skirtings, etc., renewed or repaired	1

Fire grates renewed or repaired ...	...	...	...	8
Doors repaired or new ones fixed	...	...	...	2
Windows renewed or repaired ...	...	...	...	3
Ventilations and/or lighting improved	...	...	...	2
Food stores provided or improved	...	...	...	—
Plastering of walls and/or ceilings repaired or stripped				14
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed				11
Rain water cisterns repaired, abolished or new fixed				1
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	...	...		1
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	...	...		—
Chimney stacks and flues repaired or rebuilt	...	...		12
Earth banks removed from houses	...	...	...	—
Sites concreted under living rooms	...	...	...	—
Floor timbers treated for dry rot	...	...	...	15
Sanitary sinks provided ...	...	...	...	5
Yards paved, repaired or relaid ...	...	...	...	4
Tenants required to amend conditions	...	...	...	57
Refuse bins provided	...	...	...	5

Factory and Workshops : See page 14 Factory and
Workshops Report.

Cowsheds :—

Standings improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Contraventions	...	...	...	...	...	18
Trade premises :—Sanitary conditions improved	...					16
Accumulations of manure or offensive matter removed						5
Animals and poultry :—Nuisances abated	...	...				7
Rat infestation :—Premises dealt with	...	...	...			77

Drainage :—

Drains relaid at existing houses	...	...	...	14
Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired	...	...		132
Premises supplied with additional drainage	...	...		6
Additional drains provided	...	...	...	14
New drain inspection chambers provided	...	...		21
Premises supplied with additional water closets	...			5
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	12
Water closets or urinals repaired or reconstructed	...			27
New water closet pedestals fixed	...	...	...	16
New water closet flushing cisterns fixed	...	...		12
New lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	40
Baths fixed	...	...	...	3
Soil pipes and drain ventilators repaired	...	...		2
Soil pipes and drain ventilators fixed	...	...		2
Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed	...			57
Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated	...			9
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	...	45

Smoke or fumes :—Nuisances abated or complaints dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act :—Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fire extinguishers provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious Disease Disinfections, etc. :—	Rooms.	Articles.				
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	127	979
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	15	131
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	36	260
Non-notifiable	...	...	...	...	63	10,212
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1	42
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3	79
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—	16
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	—	11
Dermatitis	...	...	...	...	—	6
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	—	29
Scabies	...	...	...	...	5	1,060
Vermin	...	...	...	...	245	566
Dry Rot	...	...	...	...	1	—
					496	13,396

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

PARTICULARS OF REGISTER.

Number of producers on the Register	...	...	...	26
Number of distributors, divided as follows :—				
(including 15 who trade from outside the Borough)				
A. Distributors only	...	...	...	61
B. Distributors who are also producers	...	...	...	18
(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers.)				
Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors :—				
Supplementary Certified Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Pasteurised	...	...	...	1
There is only one accredited milk producer in the district.				

BACTERIOLOGIST'S REPORT ON MILK SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION.

Herd milk for the presence of T.B.	...	...	...	28
(T.B. not present, 28)				
Pasteurised (satisfactory 4, not satisfactory 2)	...	...	...	6
Bacterial examination (good 50, fair 14, poor 3, very poor 5, bad 6, very bad 8, negative 4)	...	...	...	90

Comparative sampling and examinations were made to demonstrate the necessity of discarding fore milk, with the following results :—

Pro-ducer.	Description.	Bacteria per c.c.	B. Coli.	Marks %	Comment.
A. ...	Fore milk from whole herd ...	130,000	100—400	25	Bad
A ...	Bulk milk from whole herd (discarding fore milk) ...	22,000	Less than 10	95	Good
B ...	Fore milk) ...	91,000	30—100	50	Poor
B ...	Bulk milk from whole herd (discarding fore milk) ...	16,000	Less than 10		Good

The above four samples were taken under bad conditions, during darkness in the fields and it was raining heavily.

The difficult war conditions, particularly in relation to man-power and transport, had a harmful effect on the keeping quality of milk as it was delivered to the customer. Many complaints were received, particularly with regard to factory-handled milk. Representations were made and informal action taken with regard to the parties and interests concerned.

At the end of the year there appeared to be a considerable improvement in production and handling methods.

The Government now allow the use of hypochlorites for the purpose of treating milk vessels and utensils.

MEAT AND FOOD CONTROL.

Attention has been given to food handling premises. At times, owing to labour shortage, conditions have arisen which necessitated informal action to obtain satisfactory maintenance but, on the whole, the general standard has been fairly satisfactory. Owing to light packings, changed transport conditions and prolonged storage, considerable attention has to be given to canned and other food. All suitable condemned foods were salvaged for animal feeding.

The number of premises on the register for the preparation of pickled, preserved, etc., meats is 44.

PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

The Abattoir is the official “slaughtering place” for a large area which has a population of approximately 250,000.

Owing to allocation circumstances and distribution conditions it has very frequently been necessary to slaughter after normal hours and during the week ends.

The following salvage was handed on to the Ministry of Food agents for salvage recovery purposes :—

			Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Condemned meat	...	...	84	19	3	9
Non-edible offals	...	...	313	15	1	12
TOTAL			398	15	0	21

ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

		1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Pigs	...	4,718	4,413	3,964	3,653	6,021	4,875	1,026	630
Sheep	...	11,283	9,943	10,696	12,919	47,238	46,089	50,384	41,115
Calves	...	914	939	835	857	3,448	5,977	7,839	10,336
Beasts	...	1,432	1,313	1,183	1,365	7,252	10,215	7,856	10,071

Difference from the year 1941 :

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
+2,215	+2,497	—9,269	—396

The income from slaughtering tolls charges and rentals was as follows :—

1939	...	...	...	...	£1,160	6	11
1940	...	...	...	...	£3,718	17	0
1941	...	...	...	...	£4,107	9	2
1942	...	...	...	...	£3,859	11	4
1943	...	...	...	...	£4,489	11	1
Rentals Abattoir	...	...	...	...	£217	0	0
Rentals Cattle Market	...	...	...	...	£188	0	0
Market Tolls	...	...	...	...	£66	4	1

The following tables show the percentage of animals killed which are found by ordinary inspection to be affected in some degree with tuberculosis and other diseases :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	10,071	10,336	41,115	630
Number inspected	10,071	10,336	41,115	630
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcasses condemned	17	—	22	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	977	2	519	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	9·8%	·02%	1·0%	3·8%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.				
Whole carcasses condemned	198	6	2	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,754	7	—	168
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	28·3%	·12%	·004%	27%

1943. DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIRS.

[illegible]

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was :—

	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Tuberculosis :—								
Beef and organs, including 198 carcasses and 91 quarters	70	12	3	21				
Pigs and organs, including 2 carcasses		1	0	8				
	2	11	2	14				
Sheep and Lambs , including 2 carcasses and offal ...			2	4				
Veal , 6 carcasses		6	1	2				
<hr/>								
Total weight of tuber- culous meat ...					73	12	1	21
Non-Tuberculous Meat :—								
Beef and organs	10	4	2	12				
Pigs , including 1 carcass and organs		2	0	18				
Sheep and Lambs , including 22 carcasses and organs ...	1	0	1	6				
Veal			1	8				
<hr/>								
Total weight of non- tuberculous meat ...					11	7	1	16
<hr/>								
Total weight of all con- demned meat ...					84	19	3	9
					<hr/> <hr/>			

UNSOUND FOODS CONDEMNED IN THE TOWN.

	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat. —Beef, Pork, Lamb or Mutton	1	3	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish—various	3	0	17
Bacon			8 $\frac{1}{4}$
<hr/>			
	5	0	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
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Sausages	24 lbs.		
Meat Pies	72		
Shredded Wheat	87 cartons		
Rice	22 lbs.		
Boiled Sweets	10 lbs.		
Herrings	11 boxes		
Cheese	4 lbs.		
Flour	1 bag		

Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	73 boxes
Geese	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 jars
Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 jars
Mints	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Jams	...	...	...	...	...	...	54 jars
Semolina	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 bags
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 bottles
CANNED GOODS.							
Meat—various	...	...	...	...	...	...	185 cans
Fish	„	...	...	...	...	...	226 „
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	243 „
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	382 „
Soups	...	...	...	...	...	...	58 „
Broth	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Fruit—various	...	...	...	...	...	...	303 „

FOOD DECONTAMINATION.

The County Council (the scheme making authority for Civil Defence) has now taken over the organisation of this service and is combining the Food Squads with the general decontamination squads. The technical administration is still under the control of your Food Inspectors who act as the food decontamination officers.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Mr. H. F. Hardiman, the Somerset County Food and Drugs Inspector, has kindly supplied the following statement of the samples of foods, drugs and drinks taken for analysis by the Public Analyst during 1943 :—

Sample taken.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
40 Milk	40	—
1 Tincture of Iodine	...	1 (cautioned)

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Mayor and Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and other Members of your Health Department Staff and other Council Officials who have so kindly co-operated in the work of the Department.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

H. W. BLADON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

VIII. Meteorology.

The following table summarises the meteorological observations for the year 1943. The observations are taken at Clarence Park and the Town Hall.

Monthly Results of Climatological Observations, 1943.

1943. MONTH.	AIR TEMPERATURES.							Mean Relative Humidity (9 a.m.).	Mean Amount of Cloud (9 a.m.).	RADIATION. Min. on Grass.	RAIN.		SUN. Number of Hours.	Mean Barometer Reading (9 a.m.).
	MEANS.					EXTREMES.					Amount. Inches.	No. of Days with .04 ins. or more.		
	9 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Range.	Mean.	Min.	Max.							
* January ...	44.2	39.7	49.4	9.7	44.5	30.1	54.7	7.1	36.3	5.57	18	50.6	29.679	
February ...	43.8	40.4	49.0	8.6	44.7	32.4	54.5	7.6	36.3	1.26	5	75.8	30.195	
March ...	44.4	38.7	52.9	14.2	45.8	29.6	60.0	6.5	34.2	1.28	5	155.3	30.100	
April ...	52.6	46.0	58.9	12.9	52.5	36.4	71.3	6.3	40.5	.97	7	156.1	30.131	
May ...	55.7	47.4	62.6	15.2	55.0	37.1	76.3	5.6	42.7	2.23	8	219.2	30.048	
June ...	60.1	52.8	65.3	12.5	59.1	48.0	78.0	6.6	48.5	1.08	9	209.5	30.086	
July ...	63.3	56.1	70.7	14.6	63.4	51.0	87.0	9.5	51.9	1.94	12	198.6	29.991	
August ...	63.7	56.0	68.5	12.5	62.3	47.1	82.1	7.0	52.6	3.78	13	177.2	29.883	
September	58.4	50.9	64.4	13.5	57.7	37.8	73.1	8.0	46.0	4.12	9	144.6	29.991	
October ...	53.2	45.7	61.0	15.3	53.3	34.1	67.2	6.9	40.5	2.33	9	127.3	29.920	
November...	46.4	41.8	51.3	9.5	46.5	26.2	60.1	7.5	36.2	1.77	12	72.2	29.967	
December	39.9	36.3	44.3	8.0	40.3	28.0	50.5	7.9	31.2	2.00	10	40.7	30.156	
Means and Totals\$...	52.1	46.0	58.2	12.2	52.1	36.5	67.9	7.2	41.4	28.33\$	117\$	1,627.1\$	30.012	

* 20 days only for minimum on grass. Thermometer broken.

